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October 15 | 06

Calendar Girl

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2007 Doggie's Angel Calendar

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RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

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John Cameron Mitchell's *Shortbus* challenges cinematic norms.

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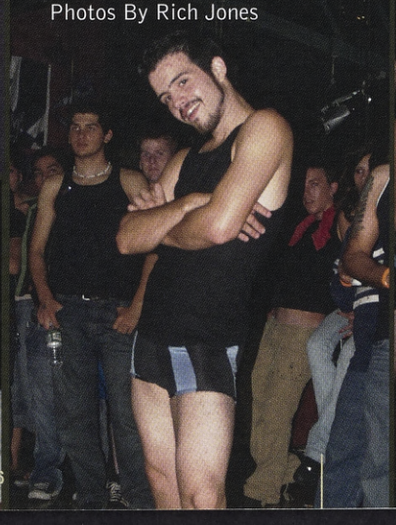

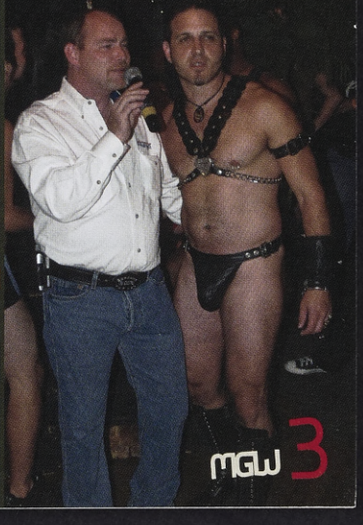

FROM THE EDITOR

M.

"NO APOLOGIES FOR YOU."

I am sometimes accused of "playing both sides" or being "wishy washy" because in public, I "make nice" with people others know I don't like. If someone I can't stand comes up to me to say "hi" at the Depot, I am not going to scream and yell and throw a drink in their face. I say "hi" and then go back merrily back to my video watching. I have never found it necessary to cause a scene or act like a bitchy queen to someone I don't like just because they are in the same building. It's something I call "mature behavior."

Working in the heart of Lavender Heights, I deal with a large number of people I don't like on an almost daily basis. Just walking across the street to the restaurant for lunch or walking to the corner store, there is almost always someone lurking about that I would prefer not to deal with. At times it seems as if they are roving landmines constantly looking for someone or something to blow up. The shrapnel they send out are destructive emotions, discord and general drama and bitchiness. They are the landmines that blow apart the cohesiveness of our community and drive those of us who try to make things better, farther away from the community and farther away from the place we must centralize to fight for our equality.

The other day I got word that someone I liked and even admired was absolutely fuming with me. The gossip-grapevine told me they were unhappy with something I had chosen to run in the publication—something that to me seemed abhorrently trivial and after hours of staring at a screen trying to make a tight deadline, seemed like a complete non-issue. I was informed, however, that it was causing World War III on 20th & K. No email or phone call to ME, no approaching ME and saying "Hey, I didn't like that." But plenty of other people sure knew about it.

At first, I was pissed. There's nothing like an insignificant molehill being blown into a mountain of drama to make the blood boil. But the next day, after I took a step back, I did as I often try to do—to put myself in the other person's shoes. While I still thought the issue was small, I did decide that if it was that much of an upset to the person—someone I had admiration for—I would apologize. I thought of several ways, but decided that a simple card would be best. After all, who can stay mad after a "I'm sorry" card with a sad puppy dog face on it?

But before I could get to the store, I passed this person on the street on my way to the club. They turned to look at me, gave me that same look the jocks who used to beat me up in school for being a "fat faggot" gave me, followed by the "I hope you see I am snubbing you" look and turned away. I felt myself suddenly turn from confident career-minded adult into awkward high school outcast.

Two days later I was having an unusually fun evening out with friends. It had been a week from hell, and I was finally relaxing and enjoying myself. Then I see that same person walk by staring at me. In my beer buzz, I waved, hoping maybe it would show I was not going to respond to the drama—I was not going to get sucked into returning negative energy. But the person just kept walking, staring at me the whole time, looking at me as if I were shit on their shoes.

Needless to say I lost any admiration I had for the person. Instead of being happy to see them come down the street, they have become another floating landmine, blowing up at me each time our eyes make contact, creating more and more cracks in the community every time she spreads her discord with me through the eager gossip mongers walking 20th & K.

This is merely one example of these floating mines. And the least of them I might add. There are bigger ones—louder ones. Ones that do everything they can to blow up on anyone for any reason and they love it. They thrive on it. They walk Lavender Heights actively seeking out the people they don't like so they can do whatever they can to make them feel like shit, or better yet, start a confrontation. They have not one care in the world that they may be seriously screwing with people's lives, jobs, friendships, relationships and even survival. This isn't high school where there's a teacher around the corner to stop the bully before they can land the blow that will permanently damage kill their victim. There's no do-overs.

I have to wonder...does this behavior make them proud? Does it make you proud to make someone feel like they are shit? Does it make you proud to turn someone's friends against them because they turned you down for a date? Does it make you proud to screw with someone's job because you didn't like something they did that will not even be remembered the next day? Does it make you feel proud to turn ill-gotten private information that could seriously effect a person's life into bar room gossip? That wouldn't make me proud. It would make me feel ashamed.

So forgive me if I am polite to people I don't like. Forgive me if I don't snub people who I feel have wronged me or that I would rather not deal with and make a point of letting them "know" I am snubbing them. I am an adult. I have no interest in dealing with the bullies of our community when I am trying to fight the bullies in the white house, the senate, the churches and everywhere else. And I sure as hell am not sending one an apology card.

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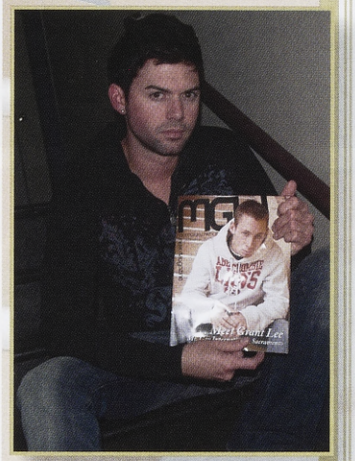
RESPONSE

DEAR EDITOR ...
LETTERS, RANTS & RAVES

PREVIOUS ISSUE



RICHARD MUNCASTER
OF FIVE POINT SIGNINGS
PHOTO BY RICH JONES

KRISTINE W GIVES THUMBS UP

Thank you all for creating such a wonderful event! The energy was amazing and all of the performers worked so hard to make a great weekend for the crowd! I was very impressed with the owner and staff of Faces Nightclub. Also, Jeff Davis went above and beyond the call of duty. I even stayed an extra night to hang with RuPaul! Such great fun!

KRISTINE W
Rainbow Performer

For more info. On Kristine W., please log onto www.DivasAndDjs.com

KATHRYN LAMADRID

The Community is invited to come out to a Special Event, The Squeaky Wheel Tour will be spotlighting Kathryn LaMadrid missing since Dec. 2004 and Angelina Evans at The Fox and Goose located at 1001 R St. Sacramento, CA on Monday October 30, 2006 9pm Performing artist will be Kama. Come in early to enjoy the music, bring you friends & family out and help make a difference not only in the community, but in the world.

The Squeaky Wheel Tour (or SWT) is a grass roots effort to gain attention for hundreds of missing children and adults whose disappearances do not have a scandal, intrigue, or national appeal to garner the attention of the public.

The Squeaky Wheel starts here... with me, with you...we have the power to make a difference both individually and collectively. We are the families of the missing, the artists and the communities who care about the missing, and the media who sees that attention is needed to bring someone home.

I will personally be there giving out fliers & also answering questions about these two women who are missing in hopes to help raise awareness across the country. I take this personally to heart as Kathy LaMadrid is my former partner from the late ' 80's. We are still very actively searching for her and are coming closer to narrowing the search. Currently we are waiting on another search team w/ a cadaver dog to come out.... So we wait patiently. In the mean time, we are wanting to do another fundraiser to help pay the expenses for the Search Team to come out. It's possible they may be coming from as far as Utah. Donations are still being accepted until Kathy is found & can be sent to: The Kathryn LaMadrid Fund, c/o Placer Sierra Bank, Roseville Square Banking Center, 110 Harding Blvd., Roseville, CA 95678. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions you can contact me: 916 -879 -3505 or email : Tahoe_girl@netzero.net

SHELLI LAMARDRID
Community Member

WAKE UP SACRAMENTO!

The time is right for a new era and a new direction for the Sacramento gay community! The cry, "I'm gay; I'm so discriminated against" is no longer a valid battle cry. It simply doesn't fly anymore and it's time to free gay people from this mantra.

Participate in the general population and thus gain greater acceptance from all walks of society. Stop whining and complaining and start contributing to society. There, we will find acceptance.

For instance, what is MGW's stand on the new proposed sports arena in Sacramento? Measure Q & R: Is the gay community for it or against it? Say so; tell the general population—hey, the gay community endorses the stadium proposal or it doesn't. Don't you think there are many Kings fans who happen to be gay? Of course there are!

What is the gay community doing about rising violent crime in our city? Think it doesn't affect gay people? Hey, it effects everyone!

Do gay people support or are they against the war in Iraq? Interview people, get their opinions. Don't you think there are many American soldiers in Iraq who happen to be gay? Give a perspective of gay soldiers' fight in Iraq.

Stop the incessant negative stereotypes that have been created by and continues to plague gay people everywhere (i.e. meaningless drag queen lifestyles, empty, cold and shallow bar scenes, silly men acting like little girls. STOP REVELING IN THE AIDS DISEASE AND MOVE ON FOR GOD'S SAKE.

Face the facts and smell the coffee, we as gay people aren't special or very much different from other Americans. We don't need or deserve any type of special status or laws simply because we're gay. Those that feel that they do need to find another cause to fight for, a cause worth fighting for. We have every right and freedom that every other American has under the U.S. Constitution. There will always be prejudice in this world. Comprehend that's just the way it is and simply don't let it effect you. Stop demanding other people accept us. The only thing that matters is that we accept ourselves.

And finally, stop perpetuating the myth that gay people are somehow different from any other people. We're not! So stop the madness of pretending that we are.

People of all walks of life don't care if you're gay or I'm gay. What they care about is are we civil, decent human beings; do we contribute to the overall society or are we a drain on it? Stop using the fact that you're gay as a crutch to blame all our failures on. Only a human being that is shallow and without substance would continue to play the gay card as any type of defense.

We only go around once in this life. Stop crying and learn how to live with ALL people. How much greater then will happiness be for those of us human beings who just happen to be gay!

SCOTT R. HADLEY
Community Member

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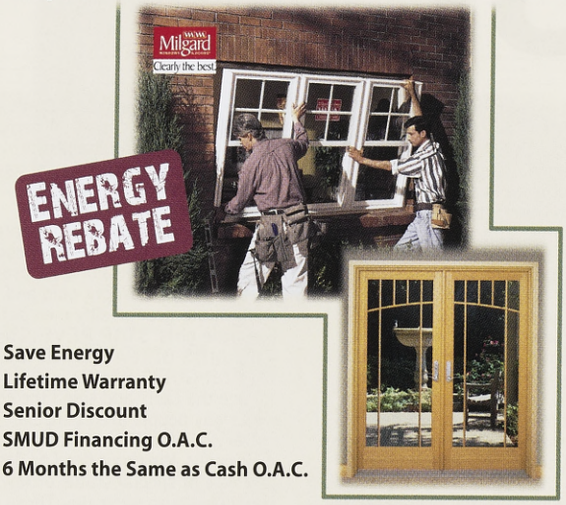

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Local News

LGBTQ Town Hall Meeting

Update on Recent Protests/Focus on Community Safety

Leaders with the LGBTQ community have issued an invitation to all interested parties to attend a Town Hall meeting, scheduled for Oct. 25, 6-8pm at Curtis Hall in the Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St., Sacramento.

The first part of the meeting will include an update on efforts by local community leaders to address the concerns about recent protests against the GLBTQ community lead by certain religious/ethnic groups in our city, which will include a Power Point presentation on the background and history of our local situation.

The second part of the meeting will be a focus on community safety for the LGBTQ community. There will be time for questions and answers at the end of the meeting.

Darrick Lawson, D.C., President of the Stonewall Democratic Club will act as Moderator. Representatives from Sacramento Police and Sheriff's Departments will speak on safety and our rights. Darrell Steinberg will give an update on efforts by the Capital Unity Council. Wendy Hill from Sacramento NOW and Jade Baranski representing Queer Youth will also present as members of the panel.

Lambda Center Goes Retail

Something Fabulous

The Lambda Center has opened "Something Fabulous" a unique store offering unusual and one-of-a-kind gifts and holiday items from around the world. The proceeds will support the programs and services of Lambda Community Center. Stop by and visit the store at The Lambda Community Center, 1927 L St., Midtown Sacramento. Business hours are Tues.-Sat,, Noon to 6pm. 916-442-0185, X 110 for more information

Doris Matsui Fundraiser

Stonewall Democratic Club

"Congresswoman Doris Matsui and Democrats from around the country need your help," claims a press release from the Stonewall Democrats.

Join Congresswoman Doris Matsui on Tues., Oct. 24 for a fundraiser. Funds raised will be directed to key races across the country and give Democratic House candidates the funds they need to win in the final days of the November Election.

For more info Contact Darrick Lawson at president@sacstonewall.org or call 916.441.1787.

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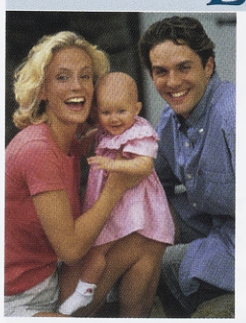

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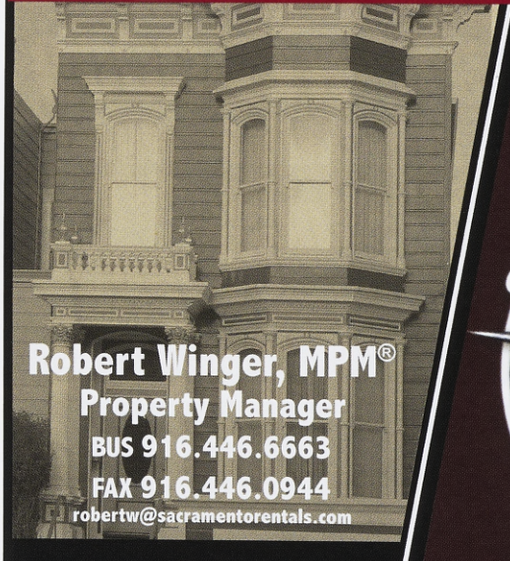

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The one... The only... Patricia Nell Warren

Photo By Greg Zabilski.

The first lady of gay literature talks about her new book and first non-fiction publication "The Lavender Locker Room"

By David Warpness

Sorry but it had to be ask and Patricia Nell Warren, author of the classic gay novel "The Front Runner" was ready with an answer. "I have been asked that same question for thirty years." The question? Why did she, a lesbian, write about a love between a male coach and his male track star instead of a love between two women. The answer? "There were no women coaches at the time and no one would have believed a story of a female coach taking an athlete to the Olympics."

"I don't get into the gender politic thing, it's about the character." This honesty and this accuracy is what has kept Warren on top as a novelist, activist, speaker, business woman and investigative journalist. Although thirty years ago she was shocked at the women who were offended that she wrote the quizaessential gay novel about two men and that men told her she had no business writing about them. Today it is just part of the history of one of the most popular gay love stories ever written.

Speaking with Warren is a fascinating experience as she is at once a teacher, story teller, historian and astute business woman. Her easy going manner and obvious intelligence makes for wonderful conversation and one can quickly see why so many people are drawn to her writing.

Her most recent endeavor is her first non-fiction publication entitled "The Lavender Locker Room". At close to 400 pages it covers events and stories from the time of Troy to the recent history tracing the GLBT community and their contributions to sports.

Having spent that past few years writing for outsports.com Warren has had the forum for discovering wonderful stories about real people who have made major contributions to the world of sports, people who happen to be gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered.

"The Lavender Locker Room" covers everything from fencing to rodeo to air racing, track and field, tennis, boxing, football, baseball, horse racing and so on. There are well known names such as Joan of Arc, Amelia Earhart, David Kopay and Martina Navratilova and many names the general population may not know such as Ana Maria Martinez Sagi, who helped launch the women's sport movement in Spain, and whose history had been all but erased but can now be read in this fascinating account of her life and her biographer.

"The Lavender Locker Room" is being published by Wildcat Press which was co-founded by Warren and her business partner Tyler St. Mark. Wildcat Press offers all of Warrens titles including "The Front Runner" and it's sequels in Spanish.

Warren also offers on her website and on the Wildcat Press site information tips for writing and publishing. She is in the process of creating Youth Writes, a series of free workshops to encourage and help young GLBT writing hone their craft. As an activist Warren has testified for the ACLU on issues of free speech.

For more information on "The Lavender Locker Room" or Warren and her activist, writing and education endeavors visit www.wildcatpress.com and www.patricianellwarren.com .

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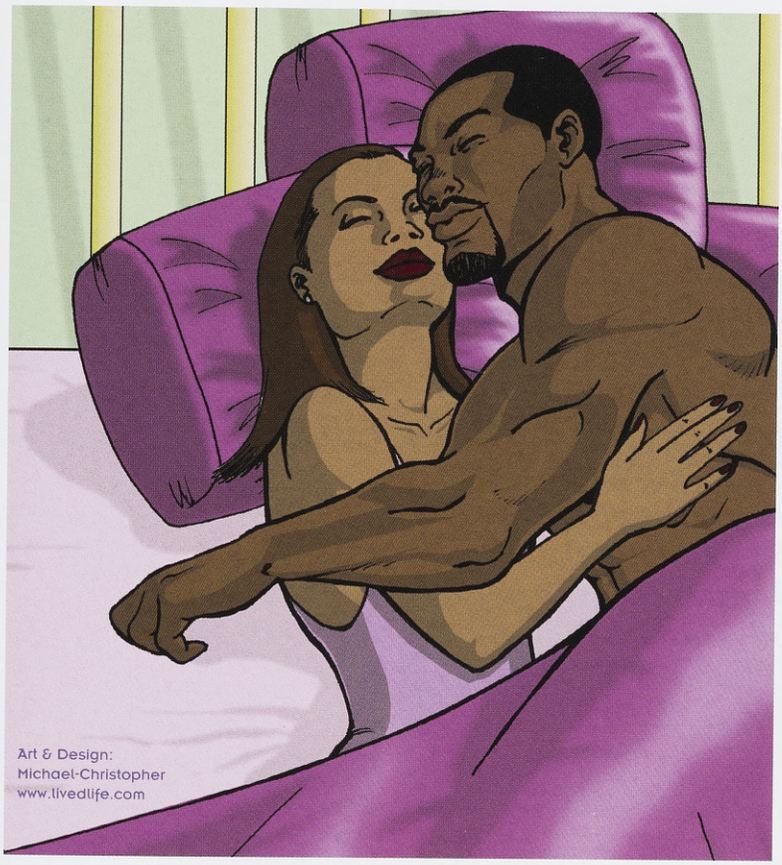

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A Masked Ball Opens San Francisco Opera Season

By Wayne R. Anderson

After completing "Aroldo" (the rewrite of "Stiffelio"), Verdi thought very seriously of taking on "King Lear." With a workable libretto in hand and a contract for a new opera in Naples, the time seemed right. But the singers offered by the San Carlo were inappropriate, so he instead opted for a story based on the assassination of Sweden's King Gustavus III at a masked ball in 1792. With the opera completed, Verdi set off for Naples in January 1858, battling a frightful blizzard just to reach the port in Genoa. Upon arrival in Naples, he saw that the censors had so eviscerated the libretto that he refused to continue with the project. After fierce legal battles, he took the opera (now called "Un Ballo in Maschera" --- "A Masked Ball") to Rome, but the Roman censors also had their say. The action was moved to Boston of the late 1700s; King Gustav was demoted to its governor Riccardo (a count), and Count Anckarstrom, the historical assassin, became Renato. The opera was a huge success, and to this day it remains one of Verdi's most highly regarded scores. Modern productions tend to return the action to Sweden where it began.

In spite of generally good singing and acting, as well as realistic and colorful sets and costumes, the SFO production failed to ignite. Marcus Haddock sang King Gustavus with a fluent well-controlled tenor of modest size that could still ring out upon demand. His singing was pleasing but never really exciting, while his unforced natural acting emphasized the King's youthful spontaneity. As Anckarstrom, the King's best friend and eventual killer, Ambrogio Maestri revealed a silken baritone that could soar to the rafters. In the great aria "Eri tu," in which he decides to kill the King for presumed adultery with his wife Amelia, his sound poured forth in the dramatic first half, but was under less control in the soft lyrical phrases beginning with "O dolcezze perdute o memorie." He has the raw material to be a major Verdi baritone.

Dramatic soprano Deborah Voigt sang Amelia, in love with the King but faithful to her husband. Best known for her work in the operas of Strauss and Wagner, she has recently been taking on some Italian roles at the Met (Aida, the "Forza" Leonora, Tosca), with less than total success. Her voice, while large enough, has a coolness to it that is not ideal in most Italian operas. With Amelia, however, this quality works to her advantage, since the guilt-ridden character is emotionally troubled throughout the opera. Her best work was in the dramatic aria "Morro, ma prima in grazia," in which she begs her husband to see her son once more before she dies. Its long swelling phrases suited her voice perfectly, and she gave it a moving performance. But the love duet with Gustav in the gallows scene, surely one of Verdi's most mellifluous pieces of writing, drew little applause, partly because she sabotaged it by not singing the climactic high note, leaving the poor tenor out there on his own. Her acting was convincing enough, but she somehow failed to get one involved in her character.

Tichina Vaughn's voice lacked both the strength and the low notes to make the fortuneteller Madame Arvidson (Ulrica) menacing. Anna Christy was a perky Oscar but became unpleasantly shrill each time she moved into her upper range. The other roles were well performed, as was the choral work. Conductor Marco Armiliato began somewhat listlessly in the prelude but then startled the audience with the cannon-like notes that open the second scene. After that he eschewed such extremes and settled down to a well-paced performance.

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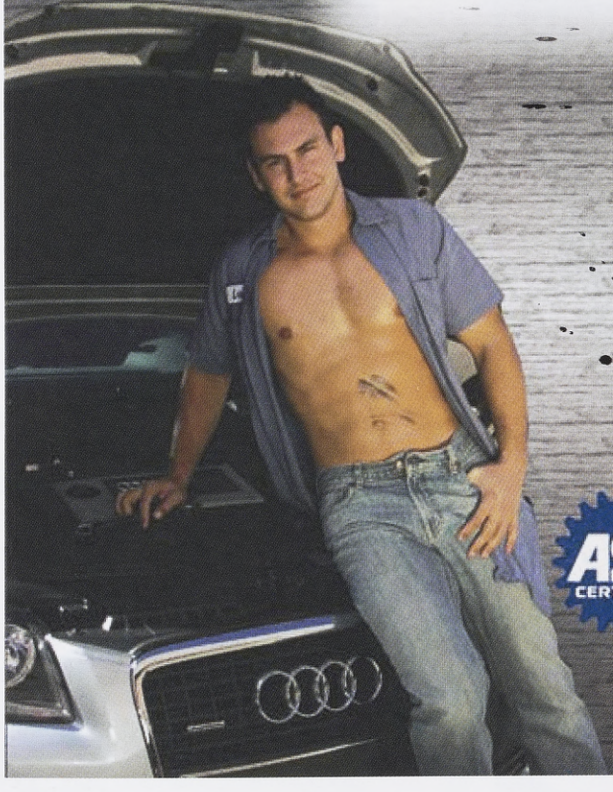

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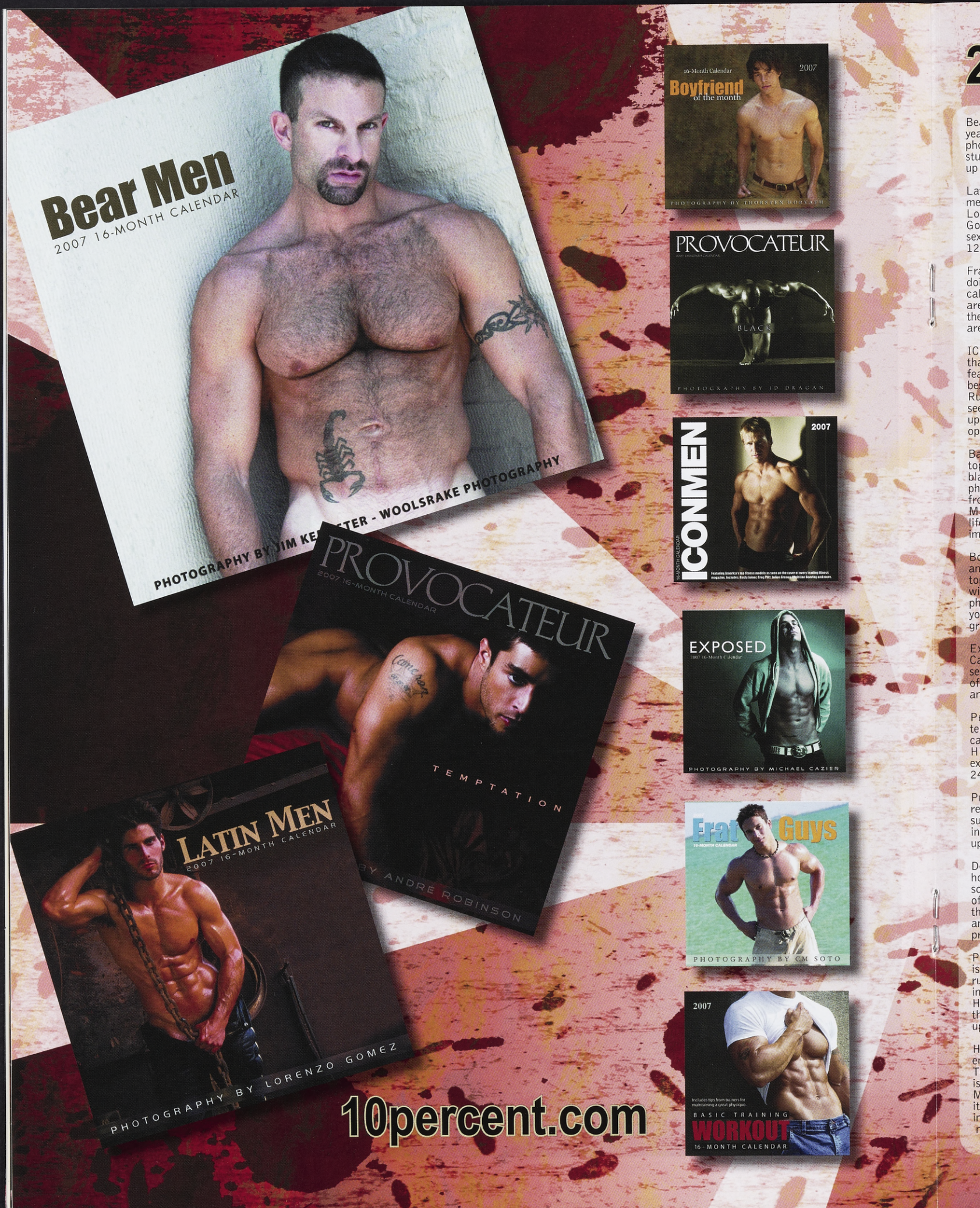
Bear Men
2007 16-MONTH CALENDAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM KE TER - WOOLSRAKE PHOTOGRAPHY
16-Month Calendar
2007
Boyfriend of the month
PHOTOGRAPHY BY THORSTEN HORVATH
PROVOCATEUR
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2007
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Guys
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2007 Calendars

Bear Men By Jim Kempster—Jim Kempster wows us again this year with hot, hunky, hairy bears in this outstanding collection of photography for those who enjoy men in their prime! These burly studs will keep bear lovers satisfied all year long. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

Latin Men By Lorenzo Gomez—Dripping with lucious Latin men, we're proud to offer this sixth consecutive edition featuring Lorenzo Gomez's stunning photography. Always a top-seller, Gomez doesn't disappoint with the latest selection of the hottest, sexiest Latin men drenched in earthy tones. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

Frat Guys By C.M. Soto—Ever wondered what hot frat guys are doing when they're not studying? You'll get a glimpse in this sexy calendar from photographer C.M. Soto. These fine young men are brilliantly captured showing off their stunning bodies when they're not in class. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

ICON Men By 10% Consumer Products—The hot fitness models that made ICON MEN a top-selling workout video series are featured in this calendar showcasing the male physique at its best. You've seen these top fitness models including the popular Rusty Joiner on the cover of every leading fitness magazine. Now see them month after month in this sexy calendar. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

Basic Training: Workout By 10% Consumer Products—This top-selling calendar makes a highly anticipated return with great black and white photography showcasing attention-grabbing physiques. As a helpful tool for men, this calendar includes tips from professional trainers Matt Parsons, NSCA-CPT and Mark Mills, MS, CSCS (www.better-body.com) for achieving a healthy lifestyle and great body. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

Boyfriend Of The Month By Thorsten Horvath—Get ready for another installment of Boyfriend of the Month. An international top-seller, Thorsten Horvath once again whets our appetite with the most seductively handsome models in breathtaking photography. Month after month, you'll enjoy the boyfriend of your dreams. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

Exposed By Michael Cazier—This sexy calendar shows Michael Cazier's obvious attention to photographic detail and great selection of models. From the shower to the beach, this collection of photography is unforgettable. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

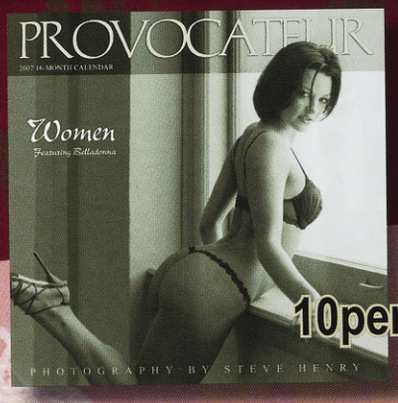
Provocateur: Temptation By Andre Robinson—The theme of temptation is carried out masterfully in this sexy, seductive calendar featuring the talents of photographer Andre Robinson. His use of lighting, location and posing emphasize the mood exuding from his gorgeous models. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

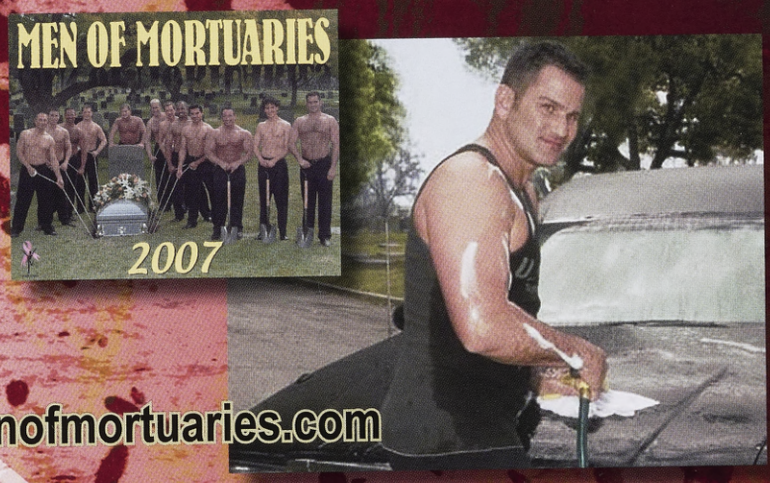
Provocateur: Black By JD Dragan—Photographer JD Dragon returns for the second year in a row brilliantly capturing the subtle beauty of the black male physique. Muscular bodies placed in sublime poses present an intensity in each still. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

Doggie's Angel, an organization committed to the rescue of homeless animals, has created a unique dog calendar featuring some truly winning canines. Doggie's Angel will contribute 60% of the net proceeds from calendar sales to SPCA Louisiana for the benefit of animals displaced a year ago by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, according to Vincenza Blescia, founder and executive producer. doggiesangel.com

Provocateur: Women By Steve Henry—The lovely Belladonna is portrayed in both seductive and endearing situations from running on the beach to gazing poolside to posing in the studio in our signature women's calendar. returning photographer Steve Henry breathes a breath of fresh air with lovely shots that show the beautiful female body in all her vulnerability. Calendar opens up to 12″ x 24″ and images are great for framing.

Hunks Of Mortuaries—Twelve undertakers, morticians, embalmers and funeral directors—all hunks—grace the pages TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THOSE FACING BREAST. The idea is the brainstorm of Kenneth McKenzie, the successful owner of McKenzie Mortuary in Long Beach, Calif., and proceeds from its sales will benefit a nonprofit organization that he founded in honor of his sister, Katherine Alyce McKenzie-Meadows. menofmortuaries.com





mama's BOY

Jonathan

Age: 25 Sign: Libra
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue Height: 6'Weight 180
Lived in Sac: 5 years on and off

FAVORITES

BAR:
It changes depending on the night
MUSIC:
I love classical & jazz as well as alternative rock. Radiohead is my all time favorite band though, hands down
RESTAURANT:
I'd get fired if I didn't say Cattlemans
THINGS:
Stormy nights
INDULGENCE:
Ice cream & the ocean
CELEBS TO HANG OUT WITH:
Amy Sedaris
THINGS ABOUT SAC:
I love how this city is really starting to grow and mature
GREATEST FEAR:
Knifes
GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING GAY PEOPLE TODAY:
Dealing with the inequalities within our society as a whole
WORK OUT TIPS:
Getting to the gym is by far half the battle. Just go!

mama's GIRL

Raylynn

Age: 29 Sign: Pisces
Hair: Blond-ish (depends on my mood)
Eyes: Blue Height: 5'6"
Weight: Ha! Yeah, right@
Lived in Sac: 4 Years this time around.

FAVORITES

BAR:
Headhunters
MUSIC:
I have eclectic taste really. A little of everything but I love to sing showtunes
RESTAURANT:
Original Petes
THINGS:
Theatre is my passion. I'm obsessed with Hedwig
INDULGENCE:
Everything!
CELEBS TO HANG OUT WITH:
My friends, we're future celebs, in our own minds anyway
THING ABOUT SAC:
I love our GLBT community, the people, the restaurants & the fun
GREATEST FEAR:
Spiders & Fish (no, I wont elaborate)
GREATEST CHALLENGE FACING GAY PEOPLE TODAY:
Can't speak for others, but, we bisexuals are constantly faced with not being taken seriously. I'm not "confused" nor am I "just horny".
WORK OUT TIPS:
Don't eat everything I eat

lost your groove?

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Dining Out with Randy Hartley

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This is a trendy, upscale restaurant, which has succeeded in melding east and west cuisine into exotically presented flavors. You simply do not find Rock Shrimp Quesadillas, Curried Pasta and Lemon Grass under Tender Chicken strips at any corner restaurant.

Bill Curren and Adam Chaccour run a superb bistro-style restaurant that is probably one of the most accommodating dining establishments you will find anywhere. In last 11 years, Moxie has become a favorite place to dine, not only for people in the central city but the suburbs as well.

Each day there are many excellent specials including fresh sea food, unique pasta dishes, beef, veal and a spectacular lamb loin entrée that I recommend most highly.

I have to honestly say that each entrée is exceptional. I always thought I made the best meatloaf in town, but Moxie's has put me to the test.

If you like mashed potatoes, as I do, Moxie has some of the most plentiful and best in town!

The food types range from comfort to exquisite.

The desserts are wonderful too! Try the delicious New York Cheesecake (Bill Curren's mom's recipe). The cake is so creamy and light. Whenever I want to enjoy "real" cheesecake I go to Moxie for take out!

There is an excellent and interesting wine and beer selection. Your waitperson will gladly recommend the perfect match with your dinner. Most wines are available by the glass also.

The décor is on the New York City side and welcoming, the portions are very ample and special requests are gladly accommodated. Their motto is "at Moxie you get what you want. If it's in the building or close by we will prepare it."

Adam, Bill and wait-staff are great: informal, but very attentive. It felt like they really cared, and wanted us to enjoy our food. We enjoyed the specials, which were extensive and personalized. I would recommend this to anyone looking for a great meal in a great atmosphere.

Moxie is definitely a restaurant to try and I suspect that after a few dinners with wine; you too, will be a regular.

Pros: Extensive specials, great service and superb cuisine.

Cons: A little small...but very warm and comfortable. Not appropriate for larger groups.

Overall rating: Highly Recommended

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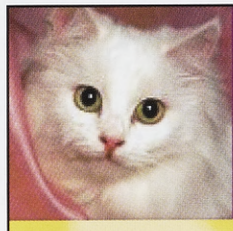

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SWANNER AND JUDD

Tom Swanner & Brian Judd

Judd: Well, here we are again. We've weathered another Summer's worth of "Blech Busters" and it seems we've moved on to a Formulaic Fall. The time when movies turn to heavier topics like politics, self-respect and taking a beer bong up the ass. We also got see what is probably the first official attempt for an Oscar—well, I didn't see it, but Tom did. Let's start with one of the most formulaic movies to come out this fall, *Gridiron Gang* starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

Swanner: First off let me say that The Rock looks good. I was a bit disappointed that he was never without his shirt or had to change into shorts, but I did like the movie. It was very formulaic but unlike some of the other films we'll be talking about, this one was well acted, written and directed. I was really surprised by how good this film was and how great The Rock looked.

Judd: The Rock plays a counselor at juvenile hall and creates a football team to teach the kids self-respect, determination, etc. so they might get a chance at a better life. Meanwhile, The Rock has personal problems and the kids all have their stereotypical personal problems. I thought of this movie as a sugar cookie—it's a basic recipe, nothing fancy, but still pretty good. Another "by-the-numbers" film was *Flyboys*, starring brooding cutie James Franco as a WWI fighter pilot. This movie regurgitated clichés that I figured had been long forgotten.

Swanner: Not even a cast this cute could save this train wreck. The story takes place during World War 1 and the French need pilots to bomb the Germans. Here come a group of American flyboys to save the day. This movie is so bad you start rooting for the Germans. The script could be the worst of the year.

Judd: Shut up, you had fun. The script was horrible and the lines were awful—but in a really good way. Let's just say they set the tone of the movie when the opening scene shows a foreclosure sign tacked to the gates of our hero's family ranch. Next I saw *School for Scoundrels* on the same night Tom saw *All the King's Men*. *School for Scoundrels* had a stellar cast giving less than stellar performances. How could a movie starring Jon Heder, Billy Bob Thornton, Horacio Sanz, Sarah Silverman, Ben Stiller, DeRay Davis and David Cross be unfunny?

Swanner: That cast smells unfunny. Why do you think I choose *All the King's Men*, which I actually liked a lot. Based on the Robert Penn Warren novel where we find Willie Sparks running for Governor of Louisiana then finding he's being used by his opponent. I read the film was liked in its early film festival appearances. I thought the acting was good and the story still holds up. The original version of this film won the Oscar for the Best Picture of 1949. How was *Feast*? Did it feed your hunger for horror?

Judd: Hmm? What? I'm sorry I nodded off while you were talking about *All the King's Men*—Sean Penn makes me want to donate to the G.O.P. *Feast* wasn't very good at all. It was billed as a comedic horror film, but the comedy was sporadic and unfunny and the horror sequences were edited so quick you couldn't see what was happening. The plot is about bar patrons who have to survive the night while there are horny, hungry flesh-eating monsters trying to get them. If I can't see the teeth sink into the flesh, what's the point?

Swanner: I hate zombie movies. I'm glad I didn't go. I did see *The Covenant*, which was a lot like the craft but with Abercrombie and Fitch models, it was pretty much what I thought it would be. Four 17-year-old warlocks are about to gain all their powers on their 18th birthday but one of the boys is abusing his power...or is there a 5th warlock?! The best movie I saw was *The Illusionist*. Edward Norton stars and a man who hold some strange powers that mystifies the town that keeps him from the women he loves. I never saw this one coming. It's smart and well-acted and I was completely thrilled with the ride it took me on.

Judd: I didn't see either one of those, but I wanted to see *The Illusionist*. I think one of the worst movies that we saw was *The Last Kiss* starring Zach Braff and various others. The movie was about miserable couples. The women were all harpies that browbeat their men into leaving, cheating, or quiet submission—and then the shrews wondered why the men left, cheated, or took a vow of silence. The movie was horrible.

Swanner: I have to completely agree with you on this. *The Last Kiss* was worse than *Flyboys*. Everyone was miserable at the end of the movie, including the audience. Finally, the movie that made everyone laugh...*Jackass 2*. I know this isn't art and it's not really a film either but I did have a good time. It was nice seeing something funny that was actually suppose to be funny. I would have preferred the nudity in the film to include some of the hunks and not the 400+ pound people and a full frontal from Wee Man. Still, for a movie about fecal matter and vomiting...I had fun.

Judd: I was howling with laughter throughout most of the movie. It's total lowbrow humor with absolutely no redeeming qualities and everyone involved with the film knows it. That's what makes it so refreshing. They're not trying to make art; they're trying to make you laugh. And they succeeded.

Swanner

Jackass 2	***
The Last Kiss	*
The Illusionist	****
The Covenant	**
Flyboys	*
The Gridiron Gang	***1/2
All the Kings men	***

Judd

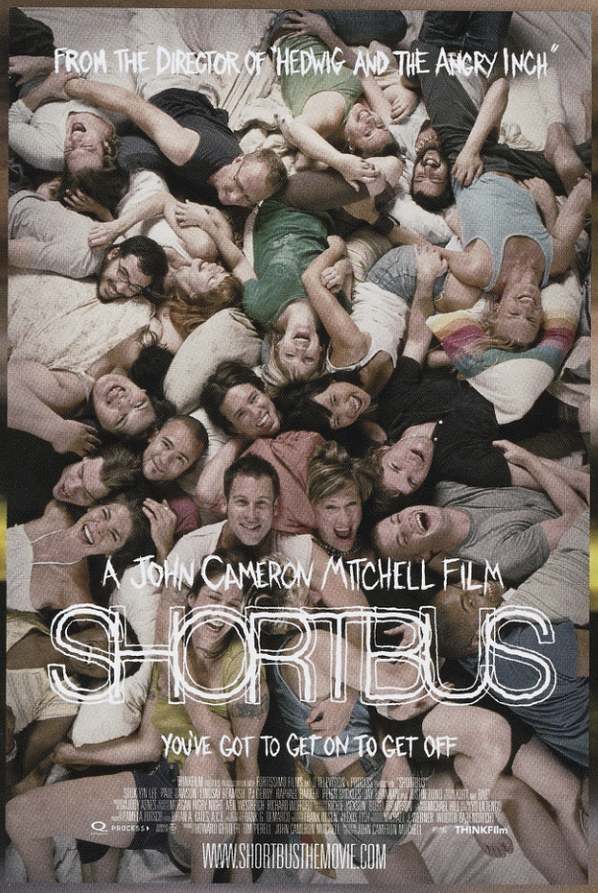
Jackass 2	***
The Last Kiss	*
Feast	**
Flyboys	** 1/2
The Gridiron Gang	***
School for Scoundrels	**

jackass: number two

MGWNEWS.COM

Shortbus: A Very Special Ride

by Stefan Gruenwedel


FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH"
A JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL FILM
SHORTBUS
YOU'VE GOT TO GET ON TO GET OFF
WWW.SHORTBUSTHEMOVIE.COM

Yes, it's true: The sex is real, the actors are really doing it in front of the camera, and they are really enjoying it. His film turns you into a voyeur without any shame. No bad feelings for watching something tawdry, illicit, or lacking artistic merit. It's the antithesis of porn.

Shortbus
A film by John Cameron Mitchell.
(Not Rated, 102 min.)

Sex. It's not just for porn anymore. John Cameron Mitchell, of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* fame, has put guilt-free sex back in movies without resorting to the tired, formulaic approach that besets pornography.

Yes, it's true: The sex is real, the actors are really doing it in front of the camera, and they are really enjoying it. His film turns you into a voyeur without any shame. No bad feelings for watching something tawdry, illicit, or lacking artistic merit. It's the antithesis of porn.

Genuinely sexy, entertaining, humorous, intelligent, and beautiful, *Shortbus* tells the multilayered story of several New Yorkers who are at an emotional crossroads. Sofia (Sook-Yin Lee) is a couples therapist whose marriage to Rob (Raphael Barker) is unsteady, despite her outward displays of married contentment. Severin (Lindsay Beamish) is a dominatrix whom meaningful relationships have always eluded. James and Jamie bring another man, Ceth (Jay Brannan), into their lives to keep their relationship intact—to the consternation of Caleb (Peter Stickles), who spies on them with a telephoto camera from his apartment building next door.

All of these individuals end up at *Shortbus*, a private but nonexclusive loft in Brooklyn that drag queen Justin Bond runs to facilitate the bonding of her male and female guests—gay, straight, questioning, and in between—with music, art, politics, games, and one another. As they seek what they need in their lives, they test their limits and learn that the language of sex is universal.

For director Mitchell, it was essential to involve the actors—some trained, some not—in the story's creation. Because of the level of intimacy required of them on the set, he wanted them to be involved with shaping their characters' development.

Two years of workshops later, *Shortbus* emerges as a political force of will, freely and boldly intermixing gay, lesbian, bi, and straight sex. The film is not for one audience. Straight audiences have to see queer sex, and vice-versa.

"I wanted to challenge all audiences to remind them that we're all in the same boat," said the director during a recent interview in San Francisco. "And yet it may be alarming for a straight guy to see a gay three-way. But when there's a joke—you know, someone's saying, 'Can you use the other hand because I usually come at it from a different angle?'—all guys can relate to that."

However, "there's no priority in this film to arouse. If it happens, it's sort of a bonus. I almost wanted to drain it of eroticism to see what was left over. In fact, most of the sex is unsuccessful and ridiculous."

The film's first 20 minutes are a visual tour de force. The camera swoops over a colorful 3D model of Manhattan (actually a computer animation) and zooms into various buildings—introducing the main characters in the midst of various ecstatic moments.

As Mitchell explained it, this style of opening establishes "a heightened reality, so it has this fairytale reality about it. It's like a Woody Allen movie. There's a good deal of realism used but it's a fantasy, too. It's like this is the way it should be."

Shortbus is funny but it's also very serious. Ceth meets an old man at the club who says he was once the mayor of New York, and he's sorry he didn't do enough to stop AIDS.

"Imagine there was a closet case in charge of New York when AIDS hit and imagine that that fear of exposure affected your job and affected people's lives," explained Mitchell, without naming names. "And imagine that person knew it later on and sought some kind of forgiveness."

For the director, who calls himself a "worried optimist," New York is a place where "you come to be fucked and you come to be forgiven." He said that's true for many people who come there. "You can come feeling like a sinner—for real or imagined sins—even if what you did really wasn't wrong."

You may get it in the end, but *Shortbus* sure makes the ride seem like fun.

Currently playing in the Bay Area and opening October 20 at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento and Landmark Egyptian in Seattle.
Info: shortbusthemovie.com

MUSIC shelf

ERIC HIMAN
EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE
THUMBCROWN RECORDS

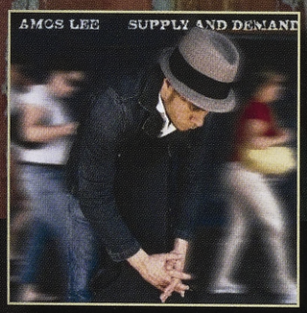
Eric Himan is no stranger to Sacramento audiences. Having performed at Fox & Goose, Headhunters, and The Rainbow Festival, his brand of bad boy folk rock is a local favorite. Now Himan releases his fifth studio album, Everywhere All At Once, which was written entirely while touring.

Audiences will notice a different sound than his previous collections of music, for Himan considers this release to be his "most personal" to date.

Himan states, "This CD is more like me, I was able to say what I wanted while being honest about my feelings. Instead of trying to tell myself what my feelings were. Whether its happy, sad or confused. I feel like I grew as a songwriter."

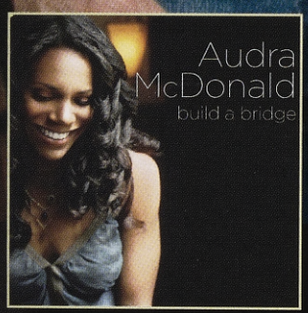
While Everywhere All at Once is a CD about love, it strays from the narratives of grieving over lost loves that proliferate the ballads of many artists and celebrates love in its various forms. It is with this perspective that Himan reveals his most personal thoughts about the struggles that he and those near to him have faced with romantic relationships, familial love, breast cancer, homophobia, and surviving Hurricane Katrina, an event that hit close to home for Himan who endured the devastation of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

There is no doubt that Everywhere All At Once is Himan's strongest Artistic effort to date. From the tongue-in-cheek rock-driven "Bartender" to the laid-back angst of "A New Life", Himan's lyrics and vocals have never been stronger and his tunes never as focused and crisp as they are on Everywhere All At Once. erichiman.com



AMOS LEE
SUPPLY AND DEMAND
CAPITOL RECORDS

Supply and Demand, the second studio album from Philadelphia native Amos Lee, illuminates his growth from emerging singer-songwriter to established recording artist. From the sparse, powerful, family elegy "Long Line of Pain," to the country-r&b flavored title track, "Supply and Demand," this album is rich with big league songwriting, compelling musicianship and captivating vocals. amoslee.com



AUDRA MCDONALD
BUILD A BRIDGE
NONESUCH RECORDS

Nonesuch releases Audra McDonald's first solo album in four years—Build a Bridge. Known for her work on Broadway, which earned her four Tony Awards, musical theater and classical performances with her ensemble and the world's most renowned orchestras, McDonald looked beyond her usual repertoire for this record. The result is a 13-song collection of music written by artists including Elvis Costello, Randy Newman, Laura Nyro, Neil Young; John Mayer, and Rufus Wainwright among others. nonesuch.com

ELTON JOHN
THE CAPTAIN & THE KID
INTERSCOPE RECORDS

Elton John returns with The Captain & The Kid, written with his long-time writing partner, Bernie Taupin. More than 30 years after the release of their #1 multi-platinum album, Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy, the duo returns with this sequel. The new album features 10 new songs reflecting the intimate lives and public times spanning the long-standing songwriting partnership of Elton John and lyricist Bernie Taupin. For the first time, both John and Taupin are featured on the cover. eltonjohn.com

SARAH BRIGHTMEN
DIVA
ANGEL/EMI RECORDS

DIVA: The Singles Collection is the most comprehensive release of Brightman's career, charting her accomplishments through 14 tracks ranging from Phantom of the Opera (1986) to her smash hit "Time to Say Goodbye" to her critically acclaimed 2003 recording Harem which gave rise to a world tour.
sarahbrightman.com

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Second Time Around...

Twenty-five years ago, when young gay men in New York and San Francisco were first struck with PCP pneumonia and KS (Kaposi's sarcoma), Americans across the country panicked at the arrival of what was first called Gay Related Immune Deficiency (GRID). This early designation soon changed as non-gay people -- many of them women -- began to become infected, as researchers discovered that the disease could be transmitted by anyone who shared infected body fluids or blood (or syringes containing infected blood), and as it appeared that federal and state funding might be much less forthcoming if the message was that HIV was a "gay disease."

Which brings us to 2006, Los Angeles, where one of southern California's most influential gay organizations has launched an ad campaign that declares "HIV is a gay disease. Own It. End It."

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center says their new campaign specifically targets local gay men who have become complacent about HIV and AIDS. The center's director says, "...this epidemic continues to be, in Los Angeles, largely an epidemic among gay and bisexual men."

The reality is that HIV could be nearly eliminated if people with HIV stopped passing it along through unsafe sex and needle sharing. To accomplish that, everyone who's at risk (i.e., who's gay and not monogamous, or shares needles, or fears they may have been put at risk thru unprotected sex, or other situations) would have to be tested and, if they find that they have HIV, make a commitment to not infect others.

Nationally, says the Centers for Disease Control, HIV cases among men who have sex with men account for 45-50 percent of recent (even after 25 years!) HIV transmissions. In Los Angeles County, this group accounts for nearly 75 percent (with women accounting for a much lower 12 percent of new infections).

Activists who have long fought against HIV stigma in the African-American community fear the campaign could erase years of progress in a community that struggles with homosexuality and is at high risk for the disease. Others worry about a return to anti-gay clergy protests, or an impact on funding for research and prevention. Still others worry that it will further stigmatize the disease and confuse women and heterosexual men about their risk (especially in immigrant and minority communities where men who have sex with other men do not consider themselves gay).

The solution to that, says the director of one L.A. free HIV clinic whose clients include women, children, gay men, and men who identify as straight, is to create similar messages directed to the minority communities to emphasize and reinforce that "it's also our disease."

HIS OWN GOOD LUCK INSPIRED ELTON TO START FOUNDATION

During a recent interview with TV reporter Diane Sawyer, entertainer Elton John, 59, discussed his own dangerous past and how it inspired him to become an AIDS activist today. "I've dodged so many bullets," he says. "Not just because of unsafe sex, but because of the amount of drugs I did, the amount of alcohol, the amount of work I was doing. I started the Elton John AIDS Foundation because I got so lucky." John's foundation has distributed more than $60 million to global HIV/AIDS prevention efforts since it was established in 1992.

HIV NE

CYTODYN CONTINUES TESTS ON IMMUNE THERAPY

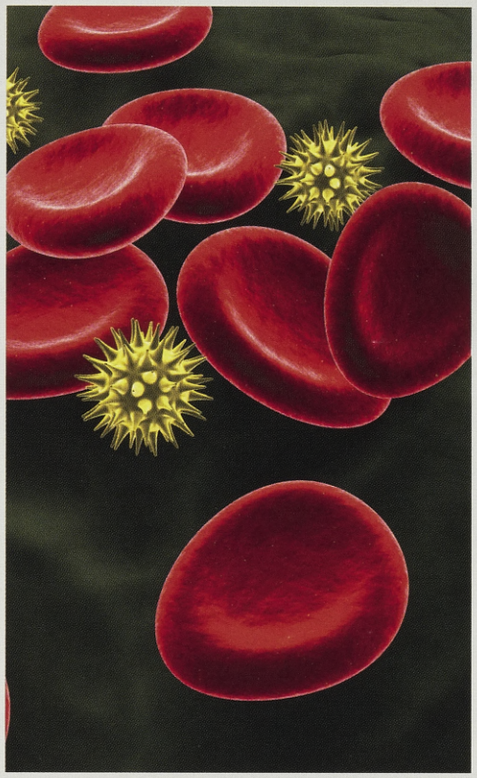
Research on a targeted immune system therapy was presented recently at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto. CytoDyn researchers continue tests on Cytolin, a drug with the potential to suppress drug resistant HIV and extend the life of anti-retroviral drugs. The drug has no effect on the virus itself, but acts on the immune system. Additionally, the company says, if random mutation occurs that produces HIV that is resistant to protease inhibitors or other medications currently being taken by a person, the use of Cytolin as an adjunct therapy could hopefully allow the continued effective use of the current medications for a longer term.

They hope their research on targeted immune therapy will produce a product that "reduces viral activity while avoiding the emergence of drug-resistant strains of HIV," says the company's CEO. At the conference, they presented their Phase I and II trials data demonstrating the drug's anti-viral effects and absence of liver toxicity in people who have failed HIV therapies and then used Cytolin to help protect their immune system.

INDIA OFFICIALS SAY HATEFUL LAW MUST GO

The head of India's National AIDS Control Organization says India's 1861 law against homosexuality is "not acceptable" and abolishing it is "fundamental" to the nation's AIDS fight. The British colonial-era law punishes men with up to 10 years in jail for having sex with other men. Additionally, activists say police use the threat of the law to extort money from gay men sitting in parks or lanes.

NACO estimates about 25 percent of men who have sex with men are infected with HIV, but



VIRAL LOAD NOT THE BEST PREDICTOR OF PROGRESSION

Doctors should use CD4 counts when counseling people about starting HIV treatment, and use viral load to monitor those who have already begun treatment, says a new study by Case Western Reserve University. The study suggests that "we need strategies based on the immune system and the person, not just the virus," according to an editorial accompanying the study.

Working with four other AIDS centers, the Case researchers and colleagues identified 2,800 HIV-positive people who had not yet been placed on treatment because their viral loads were low. Each person had at least two CD4 cell counts available for study. The team found that viral load did not predict whether CD4 immune system cell levels would fall. "Viral load is not helpful as a predictor of disease progression," they said. "There is a lot of variability from person to person that has nothing to do with viral load. That's why there is so much discrepancy between low viral load and the loss of CD4 cells."

Viral load testing is a useful tool to monitor people who have begun HIV treatments, say the researchers, but over time "we realized that viral load doesn't tell the whole story. It gives us a different perspective and shows us how much we don't know about how this disease progresses."

EWSWIRE

by Sonya Cox

because of this law, it's "very difficult to reach out to men who have sex with men and end the spread of this infection." They estimate that only 6 to 8 percent of gay men receive any HIV/AIDS outreach, including the distribution of condoms. With this law, they say, these men are scared to come out in the open, and AIDS organizations can't work with them on HIV prevention.

NACO officials also want to work over the next five years to train young adults to become peer educators about safe sex and HIV. The distribution of condoms and messages on radio and TV go only so far, they say. "We need to sit down with young people and make them talk." About 20,000 adults in their early 20s, from about 640,000 villages with more than 5,000 residents, would be recruited. These peer educators could help subvert what health workers say are common macho ideals, such as that men should have unprotected sex with as many women as possible.

Indian population services activists say they will also try to boost condom usage through colorful messages on kites during the festive kite-flying season. Kite-flying season precedes the festival of Durga Puja, during which Hindus worship the goddess Durga, destroyer of evil. India has an incredible 5.7 million HIV/AIDS cases.

CDC RECOMMENDS ROUTINE TESTING

The CDC has released revised recommendations on HIV testing in the U.S., encouraging the tests to become a routine part of medical care for residents ages 13 to 64, and dropping the requirement for written consent and pretest counseling. This is based on CDC estimates that about 25 percent of HIV-positive people in the U.S. do not know their status. Many physicians believe that routine testing could lead to an earlier diagnosis and earlier treatment.

The recommendations come at the same time that Congress' re-authorization of the Ryan White CARE Act could cut millions of dollars for AIDS treatment and care programs in some of the country's most impacted cities, including San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Northern California Kaiser has 2.3 million members ages 13-64. Only 104,000 took an HIV test last year. Currently Kaiser offers extensive pre- and post-test counseling, and officials say it will retain pre-test counseling. A Blue Cross of California spokesman said, "We'll pay for the tests."

But clinics and facilities that see large numbers of under- or uninsured people could find it difficult to follow the new CDC guidelines if the state sees Ryan White funding cuts.

HIV

IN LOVING MEMORY

...OF FRIENDS LOST IN OCTOBER

October 1985:
David Reeder

October 1987:
Greg Rogers
John Hickman
Richard Hendra
Anthony Tone Lopez
David Scalf
Roger Smith
Ron Tauzer
James G. Ward

October 1988:
Merwin Mordine
Robert Eagan
Louis Schenk
John Pipkin
Robert Seibert
Brian Dean Parker

October 1989:
John Camou
James Ellison

October 1990:
Jim Weston
J. P. Sullivan
Larry Nemei
Thomas Black
Gary James McDonough
Allan Vowell
Robert Kobernus

October 1991:
Michael Biles
Mark S. Fairchild
David Cathey
James Thomas Martin

October 1992:
Michael Moffett
Leroy Bryson
Dave Eckert
Terry Stevens
Jerry D.
Paul Shawver
Mel Renouf
Robert James Curtis
John Feltner

October 1993:
Dr. Sandy Pomerantz
Bradford Liszt
Randy Raimundo
Charles F. Greene III
David Todd
Donald Segee
Steven Weiss
David Best Hjul
Joe Zyglebaum
Robert Perry
Rich Jackson
Albert Jones
Gilbert Lopez
Jeff Cowden

October 1994:
Barry Brown
Gilbert A. Smith
Christopher Borner
Larry E.
Kenneth Harbour
Garry Browning
John Hurlburt
Obe Dean Bylsma
J. W. "Brandy" Moore
John Odom
Ernest Lara
Joe Ellis
Jeffrey Alan Jackson

October 1995:
Peter Schwehn
Don Abbott
Tony Clark
Robert ("Rob") Clark, Jr.
Dale Ryzak
Tim F.
Tom V.
Terry P.
Ray Lodar
Kevin Michael Schram
Michael Joseph Austin

October 1996:
Richard Locke
Terry Keith Warner
Clifford Warren Hagar
Jorgen Jeppersen
Lance Moeller

October 1997:
Royce M. Davis
Gerald M.

October 1999:
Allen N.
Rev. Edward R. Sherriff

October 2000:
Kevin W. Koci

October 2001:
Ron C.
Paris (Jon) Cramer

October 2002:
Scotty Free

October 2003:
Jeanne Barnett
Peter Smith

October 2004:
K O'Brian

Year Known:
Melissa M. Schultz
Bill Scott
Paul Sheldon
Charles W. Sims

EVERY NOW AND THEN, TAKE A SECOND, BREATHE DEEPLY AND THINK OF ME

To add the name of friends, family, or loved ones to MGW's IN LOVING MEMORY column, or to clarify a "Year Unknown", call (916) 737-0309.

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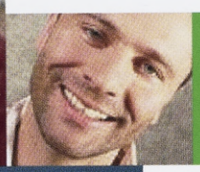

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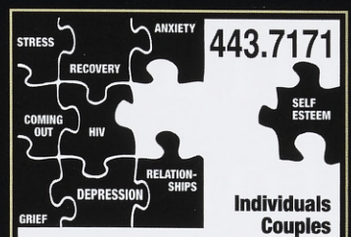

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Individuals Couples

Bruce Gunn

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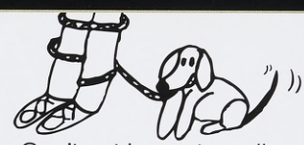

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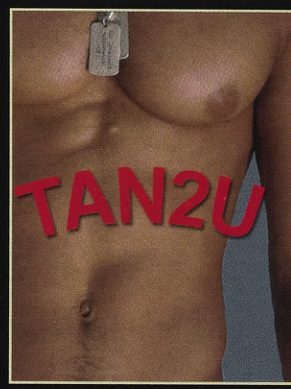

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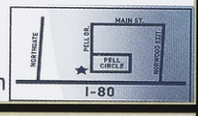

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